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J. William Brennan
University of Regina

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"Peace, Progress and Prosperity": A Biography of Saskatchewan's First Premier, T. Walter Scott. By Gordon L. Barnhart. Regina: Canadian Plains Research Center, 2000. Illustrations, notes, select bibliography, index. viii + 188 pp. \$24.95 paper.

This biography establishes Walter Scott as one of the major political figures in the history of Saskatchewan. It also sheds new light on Scott's personal life, especially his long battle with manic depression which cut short his political career at the relatively young age of forty-nine.

Gordon Barnhart provides a revealing account of Walter Scott's early (and somewhat troubled) life in Ontario, and his rise to prominence in the newspaper business and then in politics in Regina and the North-West Territories during the 1880s and 1890s. After 1900 he was the Member of Parliament for Assiniboia West, having defeated the district's long-time member Nicholas Flood Davin.

The great strength of this book is its discussion of Walter Scott's eleven-year term as Premier of Saskatchewan. It was Scott, his biographer argues persuasively, who established much of the institutional framework of the new province: a handsome Legislative Building in Regina set in a spacious park, the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, a government telephone system (now SaskTel),

and the farmer-owned (but government-assisted) Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company. It was also Scott who gave the vote to Saskatchewan women in 1916. (Saskatchewan was the second Canadian province to do so.)

In the middle chapters of *"Peace, Progress and Prosperity"* the reader also learns a good deal about Walter Scott's vision for the new province, his management style as Premier, and his skill as a party leader. Barnhart demonstrates that Walter Scott proved more than a match for another political heavyweight from the Territorial period, F. W. G. Haultain. Haultain had served as Premier of the North-West Territories and had led the fight for provincial status in 1905, but Scott bested him in three successive provincial elections.

No less interesting is Barnhart's sensitive discussion of Walter Scott's personal life as Premier, and his struggle with manic depression from 1911 on. Finally compelled to resign the premiership in 1916, Scott struggled with his illness for the last twenty-two years of his life. He died, alone, in the Homewood Sanitarium in Guelph, Ontario, in 1938.

J. WILLIAM BRENNAN
Department of History
University of Regina